The Brethren Evangelist
PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT
The Brethren Publishing House,
ASHLAND, OHIO.

Terms of Subscription.

One Copy one year, in advance, $1.50, Six Month, 75c, Four M ths, 50c, Three M'ths, 40c, One Month, 15c.

Send Money by Express, Postal Money Order, Draft, or Registered Letter, payable to the order of A. L. Garber. One and 2-cent stamps will be accepted for sums under one dollar only; we much prefer Postal Notes to stamps, but both are at the risk of the sender. **The paper will be continued to regular subscribers until we are notified to stop it.**

ADDRESS,
THE BRETHREN PUB. HOUSE,
ASHLAND, Ashland Co., OHIO.

E. L YODER, - Managing Editor,
H. R. HOLSINGER, Corresponding Ed.

ASHLAND, O., DEC. 30, 1885.

Retrospect and Prospect.

One more year is gone! Another circle has been thrown off by the great wheel of time, thousands have been laid away in rest to await the great day of final accounts, and we are all nearer our weal or woe.

The ship of time waits for no man. The great Keeper of time halts not, and every one who would work must do it now; if he waits till to-morrow he will be taken and his work left undone, and he will be carried onward unprepared for the scenes that he must face.

We are about to commence a New Year, and as followers of Him who went about doing good, there may be many errors which we should carry before the Lord and humbly beg his forgiveness.

Progress is our motto, and the Gospel of Christ our religious discipline, and making those personal property, it is encumbent upon us to apply ourselves diligently to works of love, piety and righteousness, that we may present ourselves before our Master at the close of another year with fruits that will merit his favor, and call forth his commendation.

Now is an opportune time for the adjustment of accounts. Survey carefully the ground that has been gone over through the field-glass of righteousness with the eye of faith, and if you have wronged any one, go beg for humility and strength to make restitution to the extent that is possible. Then your conduct in the future demands attention. The matter of progress calls upon its bearer to develop and improve in that which is commendable; and when associated with the Divine Word, it means development in divine life; and if we are not growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are not improving the talents that are entrusted to us.

As a Church we have made great improvement—commendable improvement; and the amount of work that has been done in the name of the Lord is creditable. This is not manifest only in the number of sinners called to repentance, but it is evident that an important step has been taken toward bringing into prominence the true policy of the Church of Jesus Christ. The hearts of our people have been drawn nearer to the New Testament, and there is more reality and less pretention in the claim we make. Many have almost freed themselves from the traditions and teachings of men, and can no longer be found carrying the Creed of God, the New Testament, in their pockets, and a creed of man, the conceptions of their own minds, in their hearts. If it is impossible to banish from our presence the creed of the mind, let it be put in the pocket, and let the Creed of God be in the heart. The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation.

As for the EVANGELIST we can only say that we have done as well as we could, and believe that we are on the road to better times. Our patrons have stood faithfully by us, and rendered us needed assistance without compensation. The work is the Lord's and he will bless them. This number completes another volume, and a new year is before us.

The EVANGELIST will be published during 1886 as it was during the past year. No particular changes will be made further than to improve it wherever money and time will allow us; and to take advance steps in this direction we only need the hearty cooperation of the Brotherhood. The EVANGELIST is purely a church property, in one sense, and it should be supported generally. Every member should consider it a part of his duty to give it his support.

We are only servants of the Church in a more general sense than the pastor is, and if the work which we are expected to do is not done properly, it is your duty to call attention to the fact and point out the defects. Be free to give advice, but in doing so do not forget that we want a periodical that we can pray for, as we should for the success of our Church. We trust the Brethren everywhere will remember our necessities and be diligent in securing for the EVANGELIST an increased circulation. We need your aid and the members of the church need the paper to keep them interested in the work.

The prospects for the Church are very promising. The only annoyance in the path of onward movement is the College Debt. When that is removed the sea will be clear and smooth for rapid sailing: but if a crash should be allowed to come, it would damage and disable every department of Church work. Brethren, ministers and all, cast in your influence and your mite to help brother Holsinger in completing that work. When that is once done, the other various plans for Church extension and more thorough organization can succeed.

The great majority of the churches of the Brotherhood are cultivating the art of Christian peace, and harmony prevails.

There are a few churches, however that are tormented with feuds, and the good work is retarded among them. We hope all who maintain strife between one another will let their differences die with the old year, and consign them to the tomb of oblivion, and go and worship God. Let no one labor to sustain *self*, and let no one interfere with the right of conscience. The Gospel is our Creed—do not undertake to enforce the creed of tradition or the creed of your mind.

Let pastors who are taking new charges remember that they are called to be servants and not lords. If there are other ministers in the work with you invite them to share in the work; assist them in whatever way you can to give them encouragement in the work of broadening the borders of Zion.

If they are not exactly what they should be in daily walk and conversation endeavor to lead them to that which is better, instead of snubbing them, provoking them, and making them your bitter opposers. It is right on the part of a pastor to rule, but he must do it with love and all long suffering, and not with a rod of iron. If you have ministers under you provide places for them to preach, and keep them busy all Lord's days, and allow them to fill the home appointment occasionally. If your church complains about him tell your church to take the commission from him that they have given, and you will be relieved of the responsibility: but so long as the church holds him a minister of their church, it is a piece of shameful contempt to crowd him into the back seats and burn the zeal out of his heart that he may have for the cause. Brother Pastor remember that you cannot appropriate all of the Lord's vineyard to your own use; if you undertake it the Lord will depose you and give your place to a brother who will bring in the fruits in due season. Cultivate harmony with your co-laborers and your work will prosper, and you will be blessed.

The New Year is before us, and may the Lord enable us to improve it to the restraining and crucifying of our own passions and lusts, and to the building up of all good works, and may the God of peace fill our hearts with his spirit and love one for another.

Editorial Correspondence.

I had a pleasant visit at brother Gumps. There are only a few members at this place, but they are anxious for more preaching. It is a pity that some arrangements cannot be made by which the scattered members may be visited and encouraged. It would seem that it might be done if the proper parties would attend to the work. There are Sulphur Springs, Eaton, Zanesville, Huntertown, Auburn, Rome City and Lima, lying almost on a parallel line, north and south, which need working up. Brethren Hamilton and Truby should, it appears to me, do more than they are doing. We have endeavored to encourage and incite them to make greater efforts. I hope the brethren and sisters of their immediate surroundings will also encourage them with their assistance.

I stopped at brother Carmer's on the return, but for different reasons it did not appear convenient to preform the proposed visit.

Having my temporal home at brother Lewis Muntz, I returned to Milford on Thursday. On landing there, I received the sad intelligence of the death of sister Fisher. She was one of the persons on the group of school house No. 7, and is the second one who has died since it was taken, last July; brother Switzer being the first. At that rate it will not be long until all shall have passed away. Both were estimable members. Brother Switzer was old, and a member of the church for many years, and took a deep interest in the present reformation, as he had suffered much, in person and through his family from traditional ruling. Sister Fisher was but little above middle life, and was baptized last summer, and was a faithful member and a highly honored citizen.

Brother Mallott was holding an interesting meeting at the time of my visit; and as they intended to have a communion season on Saturday evening, I allowed myself to be prevailed upon to remain for that service. A number of persons united with the church during my stay with them. On one day ten were baptized, and on another five more, and at the time I left twenty-eight had joined. My friends Enoch Rohrer and Thomas Clayton were among those baptized, with whom I was acquainted, and sister Tena Muntz of those who joined by relation. Sister Muntz is a valuable acquisition, as she is a woman of good influence, and is a worker in the vineyard. I never experienced or witnessed such a thrill as passed through the congregation on the evening when Charles Hunter, Thomas Clayton and Enoch Rohrer came forward. All rejoiced to see it, and even those who had not yet given their own hearts to Christ, gave the hand of peace and congratulation. God bless those brethren and help them to hold out faithful to the end, and not only them but all who have named the name of Christ.

Had a pleasant and interesting communion, which seemed to be enjoyed by all who participated in it. The Brethren have no house yet, but they have the use of the Disciple house, generally. As the Disciple church wanted their house to make ready for the holidays, the M. E. house was secured for three nights, but neither of the churches could be secured for the communion meeting. So an unoccupied store room was secured, which was made to answer very well. It belongs to the new sister Skelley, who has the thanks of the Brethren. By another winter the Brethren will have a good house in Milford, at least that is the standing excuse for not donating to Ashland College any more liberally. I delight in the prospect of a new church but I hate the excuse. Visited my cousin, sister Rohrer, and spent a night at brother James Skelley's. They are happy, and so may they always be. Hope brother Skelley's marriage may not be a hindrance to his services as solicitor for Ashland College. He will have a good subject to use his persuasions with right at home.

After the communion brother and sister Muntz brought me with them to the Junction, and entertained me until 3:08 a. m., Dec. 20, when I took the train for Ashland.

Reached Ashland Snnday afternoon, but not feeling well did not attend prayer meeting at the College, which I regretted. Had the pleasure of meeting most of the brethren and sisters of the Ashlaed church. All are reasonably well, brother E. L. Yoder, of the EVANGELIST, excepted. Sister Yoder has my heart-felt sympathies. Bro. Y. is at Lockwood, Mo., and is too sick to return home. He has requested his family to move out to Missouri, and they have concluded to go at once. All the cares of the family and arranging for the removal are resting upon sister Yoder besides the strain of mind arisng from the doubts and fears concerning the condition of her husband. Hope the worst of her fears may not be realized. And brother Yoder will please keep the readers of our paper better posted of his whereabouts, and the condition of his health in the future. We want to know. And we speak the prayers of God's people in his behalf. He has been connected with the college and press for some time, and his services are very important to both at this time.

The college is doing very well this term and the prospects for next term are still better. More about the school and its debt and its payment in my next.

This article is being written at Bradford Junction while waiting for the train. Here the Pittsburg and Lake Erie R. R. connects with the Baltimore and Ohio, but there is an hour's difference in the time by which they are run, which has occasioned a vexatious delay of five hours here, and may occasion me a walk of nine miles, from Garret to Berlin, for I am bound to reach old Berlin for Christmas, if muscle and will can do it. Money and steam may fail, but will never does, for where there is a will there is a way.

HOLSINGER.

Dec. 24.

PETERSBURG, VA., Dec, 12.—Have the convention; have the Home Mission Board, have Missionary Aid Societies in every Congregation. Let every congregation know and feel that a certain thing or amount of money is expected of them, then let the Home Mission Board send Bauman and Hixson and a half dozen others out to convert sinners. System is the all important thing. Get this Board and let them raise the money.

DAVID REINHART.

MASONTOWN, PA., Dec. 22.—Although the day was cold, 20th inst., we repaired to the banks of the Monongahela River for christian baptism. After singing the favorite words of the applicant—"Let us gather up the sunbeams"—Rev. A. J. Sterling led into the water Prof. George W. DeBolt, who upon a confession of his faith was buried with Christ in baptism into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Mr. DeBolt is a young man of reason and eloquence, reading law preparatory to a final examination for admittance to the bar. His learning and profession does not deter him from belief in the immortality of the soul, the existence of the Triune God and His plan of salvation for man. On the morning following baptism, he in company with Rev. Sterling started to Armstrong County, Pa., where brother Andrew will hold a protracted meeting for the congregation of which brother J. B. Wampler is pastor. May the the blessings of God be upon their labors, the peace of God fill their souls, and the mercy of God bring them safely home.

M. M. STERLING.

The M. and E. Fund.

Catharine Kline	$1.00
Laura Slotter	1.00
Esther Metzger	1.00
Mrs. E. J. Martin	.60
	3.60
Previously reported	23.60
Total	27.20